THE ADEN PROTECTORATE

By LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR BERNARD REILLY, K.C.M.G., C.I.E., O.B.E.

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CHAIRMAN: We now come to the business of to-day, which is Sir Bernard Reilly's talk on the Aden Protectorate.

I could not help thinking, to go back to Lord Lloyd for a moment, how immensely interested he would have been in this talk, with his abiding memories of the Middle East, his intimate understanding of the Arab people, and his sincere respect for the faith and the tradition of Islam.

Sir Bernard Reilly needs no introduction. Any of you who have been to Aden, if only for a day, must know of him, because the two words "Aden" and "Reilly" are virtually synonymous. We have heard of "Reilly of Aden." I have sometimes wondered whether it should not be "Aden of Reilly." He has given a lifetime of service there, and, when the Aden Settlement was turned into a colony he became most appropriately the first Governor and Commander-in-Chief. If ever an administrator overseas deserved the title, "father and mother of the people," it was Sir Bernard Reilly in Aden.

There is just one thing I must tell you. When he was going away from Aden last year he did not know that he was retiring. When he reached this country he realized that private circumstances were such that he absolutely must retire, deeply as he regretted not going back to Aden. Before he left, his Arab servant, who had been with him many years, said: "Master, when the time comes for you finally to leave Aden, you must not tell us. You must go away, just as if you were taking one of your holidays to England, because the partings would be too sorrowful." That is a great tribute; and, in point of fact, on this occasion the master did act on the advice of the servant.

THE Aden Protectorate is an extensive tract of country in Southern Arabia. Its coast stretches from a point opposite to the island of Perim for about 600 miles to Ras Durbat Ali on the borders of Oman, and it reaches inland to a depth varying from about 100 miles in the vicinity of Aden to a greater but undefined distance farther east. Arabia is often thought of as a land of deserts, but this part of it, like many other parts, is a country of mountains. The sandy plain that the passing traveller sees stretching inland from Aden is only a maritime belt. Beyond it the hills rise abruptly in peaks and ranges that reach to heights of 8,000 feet and more. These mountains are, for the most part, rugged and forbidding, but they are interspersed by valleys and ravines that contain fertile and cultivated strips of land. Where the slopes permit, the sides of the hills are

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Socotra

Where the slopes permit, the sides of the hill are terraced by the industrious inhabitants to grow crops and, in the higher altitudes, the excellent Mocha coffee for which Southern Arabia is famous. Villages appear in unexpected places, built of mud brick in the low country and of stone on the mountain-sides and hill-tops. Among these habitations are seen always the square towers, or *tars*, and the little mosques or whitewashed shrines that are characteristic of the Arab villages.

The aspect of the country varies in its different parts. Immediately to the north of Aden is the large and fertile oasis in which stands the capital of the Sultan of Lahej. It is irrigated from the bifurcation of the Wadi Tiban that brings water from the mountains and then disappears in the sands near Aden. To the east and west of Lahej are desert strips, but beyond are the Subeihi hills and valleys to the north-west, the rugged Haushabi country, and the pleasant district of Dhala in the Amiri highlands to the north, and the lofty mountains of Yafa to the north-east. Thence to the eastward a steep escarpment spans the country like a rampart; and is crowned by the fertile Audhali plateau 7,000 feet above sea-level. Farther east, beyond another stretch of rough, mountainous country, is the fantastic and barren *jol*, reminiscent of pictures of the surface of the moon. To the north of this strange and desolate area, and in striking contrast to it, is the wide valley of the Hadhramaut, with its chain of towns and villages, its skyscrapers, country houses, palace and gardens. Beyond again, away to the north, lies the edge of the Rub' al Khali, the Empty Quarter, with its sea of tumbled terra-cotta coloured sand dunes stretching into the distant interior.

On the sea coast of the Protectorate there are at intervals fishing villages and little ports, and about 300 miles to the east of Aden stands the picturesque town and port of Mukalla, the capital of the Quaiti Sultan. Protected by a steep background of rock, its white houses cling to the shore, and its appearance from the sea is singularly attractive. The town of Shehr lies on the coast beyond it, and eastward again there are more coastal villages, of which Qishn, the capital of the mainland territory of the Sultan of Socotra, is the most important.

The large island of Socotra, situated about 500 miles to the east of Aden, forms part of the Protectorate. It, too, is a mountainous country, but, owing to its greater rainfall, it is much less bleak than the neighbouring mainland. It has a good deal of varied vegetation, and is noted for its so-called dragon's-blood tree, the sap of which is exported to India and elsewhere to make a rich purple dye. Socotra has also a

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Socotra.

Socotra has also a good breed of small, straight-backed cattle, a rarity in this part of the world.

With its commanding geographical position on the sea routes to the East and to the African coast, Socotra would probably have a much greater importance but for its lack of any good harbour. As it is, this interesting and attractive island receives little attention and has few European visitors. Aden's official contact with it is usually limited to the payment of the Sultan's stipend and to the annual visits of one of His Majesty's ships conveying the Governor of Aden or a political officer on tour.

The total area of the Aden Protectorate exceeds 100,000 square miles; that is to say, it is about as large as the United Kingdom. The size of its population is not known with any accuracy, but it is estimated to be about 600,000. With the exception of a few Indians living at Mukalla, a small colony of Arabian Jews at Dhala, and, in some parts, some imported African blood, the people of the Protectorate are wholly Arab. There are wide differences among them, for they vary from the settled communities of Lahej, Mukalla, Shehr, and the towns of the Hadhramaut Valley to primitive and semi-nomadic Bedouin. Between these extremes are tribes whose traditions and environment produce divergent characteristics, although they are alike in the essentials of race, religion, and language. Apart from the towns, the tribal system prevails throughout the country, and inter-tribal jealousies and feuds have been a cause of chronic disturbance, which has not yet been wholly cured by the Protecting Power.

The Arabs of the Protectorate are a race of small but hardy people, and their virtues and their faults are largely the outcome of their environment. Living in a rough and comparatively barren country, they are frugal, patient, and industrious. The poverty of their country forces many of them to seek their livelihood abroad. They make excellent seamen, and, as such, they are to be found scattered over many parts of the world. In common with many other mountain people, their institutions are democratic. Every tribesman is as good as his neighbour, including his chief, who, in a tribe, is only the first among equals. It is true that there are sections of the population who are subject to the tribesmen and who are liable to oppression, but the dominant characteristics of the people are a strong individualism and a love of freedom. They are said also to be avaricious. Avarice is indeed a common fault among them, but it is natural that money should be greatly valued in a land in which it is scarce and hard to

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earn. An Arab from the Protectorate to whom I said that he and his friends seemed to think of nothing but money-making when they came to Aden replied: "If you will see the country from which we come you will understand the reason." It is a mistake, however, to suppose that a love of gain overrides all other considerations. The Arab, like other people, will do a good deal for money, but there are some things that he will not do. If his honour is affected he will place that first, and he will cling tenaciously to what he regards as right.

The Arabs of the Protectorate are all Moslems, and they have a strong attachment to their faith, but they are not fanatical. They belong to the Shafei sect of Sunnis, and they dislike and distrust their neighbours of the Zeidi persuasion in the Yemen. The most virile tribes are the Aulaqis and others to the north-east of Aden, and from them are recruited most of the men for the Aden Protectorate Levies stationed at Aden. In the most western parts of the Protectorate the people are addicted to chewing the mildly intoxicant leaves of a local shrub called *kat*. This habit is alleged to have a deleterious effect on physique and intelligence, but the degree of truth in this imputation is in some doubt.

In some of the coastal districts there is an intermixture of African blood, due to old importations of slaves. Slavery has long been an institution in the country, but it is limited to the descendants of imported Africans. Slave trade, fortunately, no longer exists, and efforts to suppress the status of slavery altogether have made some headway. The principal chiefs of districts in which it still exists have agreed to grant freedom to any slave who asks for it. The slaves have not, however, shown much desire to take advantage of this measure, for they are not, on the whole, discontented with their lot. The prevalent form of slavery is a mild one, and it confers privileges as well as exacting duties. The Arabs, for the most part, are kindly masters, and their so-called slaves can often rise to high positions of trust and responsibility. In the Quaiti State they have sometimes become local governors, and they can wield considerable influence.

The genesis of the Aden Protectorate was the desire of the British, when they occupied Aden in 1839, to guard their new acquisition from attack on the land side. For this purpose Captain Haines, the first British Resident of Aden, concluded treaties with some of the neighbouring Arab chiefs, the most important of whom was—as he still is—the Abdali Sultan of Lahej. These treaties formed the nucleus from which the Protectorate has gradually grown. During the nineteenth

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century and the early years of the twentieth the potential enemy on the South Arabian mainland was Turkey, whose occupation of the province of Yemen brought its territory to within a short distance of Aden. The Turks, indeed, maintained a theoretical claim to the whole of Southern Arabia, including Aden itself. In practice, however, they accepted the existence of British protection over nine tribes adjacent to Aden, and these became known in diplomatic dealings between the British and Turkish Governments as the Nine Cantons, a term that still lingers, although the number of tribes in treaty relations with the British Government now far exceeds the original nine.

The Protectorate treaties are all cast in much the same form. It is a very simple one, for the provisions are limited to a few short clauses stating that the gracious favour and protection of the British Sovereign shall be extended to the tribal chief, who, in return for a stipend, undertakes to have no relations with any other foreign Power. In some cases the treaties were supplemented by agreements about the security of roads or other matters of common interest, but generally speaking there was no attempt to introduce any direct British influence or even supervision in the internal affairs of the tribes. Aden was regarded as being primarily a fortress, and the purpose of the Protectorate was the creation and maintenance of a vacuum behind the fortress, into which no foreign intruders would be admitted. Provided that this object was secured, the Protecting Power at that time showed no interest in the welfare or development of the people of the country, who were left to their own devices and to their traditional vendettas and anarchy.

This indifference to the domestic concerns of the protected tribes was even more marked in the eastern part of the Protectorate than in the country nearer to Aden. Treaties of the same type as those already mentioned were made with the local chiefs on the sea coast to the east of Aden up to the borders of Muscat. The reason for this extension of the protected sphere was similar to that which led to the establishment of the Nine Cantons. Its object was the exclusion of foreign influence from Southern Arabia owing to the proximity of this territory to our vital sea communications with the East. The most important treaties with tribes to the east of Aden are those with the Quaiti Sultan of Shehr and Mukalla and with the Sultan of Qishn and Socotra, whose territory includes a mainland portion as well as the island of Socotra. No effort was made at that time to extend British influence inland from Mukalla or the neighbouring coast. The Government of India, by whom the Protectorate treaties were concluded, was content to have

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a British protected belt along the coast and to leave the interior of the country alone. This policy was no doubt due in part to the difficulties of communication overland and to the attitude of the Arab chiefs concerned, who welcomed protection against foreign enemies, but disliked any interference with their internal affairs.

Unfortunately, British protection was not always effective. No troops were maintained in the Protectorate, and when the test of war came in 1915 the Turks in the Yemen found no difficulty in marching down through the Protectorate to Lahej and the gates of Aden. After the war the rule of the Turks in the Yemen was succeeded by that of the Zeidi Imam of Sana. This energetic ruler has always regarded both Turks and British as usurpers in Southern Arabia, the whole of which he looks upon as his rightful inheritance, and he lost no time in seizing as much of the Aden Protectorate as he could take with impunity. The British at Aden, with a much reduced garrison and a minute air force, were unable to give effective protection to their tribes until 1928, when air reinforcements enabled them to recover the Dhala district. The Imam's Zeidi troops retained possession of some parts of the Protectorate until 1934, when they were withdrawn as a corollary to the signature of the Treaty of Sana. This treaty effected a temporary settlement of the vexed question of the Protectorate frontier. The Imam did not formally renounce his historic claims, for he declares that he will never do that, but he agreed that they should remain in abeyance for the period of the treaty—that is, for forty years from its signature, or until a more permanent solution could be found. On the other hand, the British Government recognized the Imam's title as King of the Yemen and his complete independence within his own territory.

It was hoped that the Treaty of Sana would prove to be a turning-point in the history of the Aden Protectorate, and this hope has to some extent been justified. Before the conclusion of the treaty the Protecting Power was mainly concerned with the problem of defence against external aggression, and there were even advocates of the abandonment of all but a fragment of the Protectorate in the immediate vicinity of Aden. The settlement with the Yemen enabled the authorities at Aden to turn their attention to setting the Protectorate house in order. There was a growing feeling that the old policy of indifference to its internal needs was unworthy of the best British traditions, and that an effort should be made to improve the lot of the people in the protected area. It was no longer considered to be good enough to put a ring

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663 fence round the country and then to leave it to anarchy. On the other hand, there was no wish to introduce direct British rule over a people who are tenaciously attached to their independence. Our policy is therefore to support the treaty chiefs and to lead them and their subjects to appreciate the advantages of the suppression of lawlessness and the maintenance, in collaboration with the British Government, of internal peace and security. At the same time it was laid down as a general principle that the main trade routes through the Protectorate must be kept safe, and that the Government would enforce this decision.

The medium through which this policy was to be carried into effect was a number of political officers centred on Aden, but working in the Protectorate, and I, as Governor at the time, was fortunate in the appointment by the Colonial Office of a group of young men who threw themselves wholeheartedly and devotedly into the work of gaining the confidence and friendship of the Arab tribes and their chiefs, and in promoting the policy upon which the Government had embarked.

712 This work would not have been possible without the collaboration of the Royal Air Force. Aden had become an Air Command in 1928, and the first action of the strengthened Air Force was the ejection of the Yemenis from Dhala, to which I have already referred. This was followed by the construction of landing-grounds. There are now between thirty and forty of these in various parts of the Protectorate, including the Hadhramaut Valley, which had until lately been almost a *terra incognita* except to a few adventurous travellers. Flights by the Royal Air Force over the Hadhramaut were followed by invitations from the local Arabs to land, and the pioneer work of two young Air Force officers, Cochrane and Rickards, led to the establishment of closer contact. The first visit of a Resident of Aden to this strange and most interesting district was paid by myself in the early part of 1933.

556 I have already referred to this remarkable valley of the Hadhramaut,
167 and readers of Miss Freya Stark's delightful and graphic descriptions of her travels in Southern Arabia will be familiar with its peculiar characteristics. Its wealthy seyyids and merchants have generally amassed their fortunes in Java or Singapore, to which countries the Hadhramis emigrate in large numbers, and in which many of them are
[186] owners of valuable house property. They do not, however, lose their
342 love for their original home in Arabia, and many of them eventually return to the Hadhramaut, and there build for themselves the luxurious

houses whose semi-Malayan architecture contrasts forcibly with the austere and simple lines of the buildings of native Arab design. These well-to-do people have seen the benefits of law and order in foreign countries, but they found themselves powerless to introduce them among the warring tribes of the Hadhramaut. The country thus presented a strange intermixture of civilized opulence and tribal turmoil. It was at length realized by themselves that these evils could be cured only by foreign intervention, and they appealed insistently to the Protecting Power to interfere. The situation was complicated by the political division of the country between the Quaiti Sultan of Mukalla and the Kathiri Sultan of Seiyun, whose traditional jealousies added to the general confusion.

It was evident to the British authorities that the whole problem presented by this part of the Protectorate needed careful examination before any effective action could be taken by the British Government, and Mr. W. H. Ingrams was deputed by the Colonial Office to study it. His very valuable report formed the basis on which British policy in the country has since been developed, and his appointment as Resident Adviser to the Quaiti and Kathiri Sultans opened a new chapter in the history of the country. Backed by the strength of the Royal Air Force, whose timely punishment of a notoriously lawless tribe gave general satisfaction, he was able to negotiate a network of truces which brought to an end the internecine warfare that was ruining the land, and with the assistance of a small but energetic political staff he was able to inaugurate reforms that are bringing order out of chaos in the Quaiti and Kathiri States. Mr. Ingrams is now Chief Secretary at Aden, but his work in the Eastern Aden Protectorate is being continued by his successor at Mukalla, Mr. Joy.

In the western half of the Protectorate there was not the same demand for reform, because there was no correspondingly large section of the community with wealth and culture and an acquaintance with the advantages of regular and orderly government. Progress has therefore been slower, but the efforts of the British Government to promote peace and internal security have been ably assisted by our loyal friend the Sultan of Lahej, the premier chief of the Protectorate.

The patient work of Colonel M. C. Lake, the Political Secretary at Aden, and of the political officers under his direction has borne fruit in a general amelioration of conditions, and the creation of Government and tribal guards to supplement air control has helped in establishing security on the trade routes and in bringing peace to districts that had long been distracted by blood feuds and brigandage.

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N000 653 185 long been distracted by blood feuds and brigandage. An energetic Agricultural Officer appointed by the Colonial Office has initiated experiments that are producing very promising results on the Audhali plateau to the north-east of Aden, and in other districts where water is available for irrigation. Medical and educational progress is as yet only in its initial stage, but a beginning has been made in the establishment of local dispensaries, and the institution at Aden of a Protectorate College for the sons of chiefs has met with encouraging success.

A 101 162 177 H 648 It is a fundamental principle of our policy in the Aden Protectorate that the Arab character of the country must be preserved. In this respect the Protectorate differs from the colony of Aden, which it adjoins. The colony is a small territory comprising the town and port of Aden; and, although the majority of its inhabitants are Arabs, it has long been a cosmopolitan community, in which Europeans, Indians, Jews, and Somalis mingle with the Arabs in friendly co-operation and a common loyalty to the British Crown and administration. The Protectorate, on the other hand, is recognized to be wholly Arab country. There is no intention on the part of the British Government to annex any part of it or to introduce any direct British administration. H 648 Our ambition and our hope are to produce in Southern Arabia an example of friendly and willing British and Arab co-operation, in which we give the best we can in the shape of advice and technical help without disturbing the national characteristics of the people. All efforts at reform are fated to meet with opposition from some quarters, and especially from those that are interested in the maintenance of old abuses, and our experience in the Aden Protectorate is no exception in this respect. On the whole, however, we have received a cordial, and often an eager, response. British officers working in Aden and the Protectorate have been rewarded not only with understanding and support, but also with liking and friendship that have bound them by personal ties to these Arabs, who have so much in common with the H 609 648 186 British in their individualism, their adventurousness, their humour, and their love of freedom. Now, when the Empire is at war and is passing through critical days, it is a pleasure and an encouragement to see the spontaneous loyalty and affection that have been displayed by the people of Aden reflected also in the Protectorate that we so long neglected but are now at last trying sincerely to befriend. In the towns and in remote villages in the mountains the people have gathered in their mosques to pray for British victory. Their friendship did not falter in the dark days of last summer, and now that victories have

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come they are united with us in a common rejoicing. That is the kind of recompense that gladdens the hearts of those who have worked for these people and have striven to make British protection a real benefit to them. It encourages our belief that our pioneer work in this country has been undertaken on the right lines, and that we may hope to add another success to those that have been achieved by our predecessors and contemporaries in other parts of the Empire. A great deal remains to be done in the Aden Protectorate, but with patience and perseverance and with the right principles to guide us we may be confident that it will be accomplished.

Colonel Tod: I do not know whether you would like to hear anything of the earlier history of the Protectorate, but the time I spent in the Aden Protectorate was before even Sir Bernard Reilly's time, forty years ago, when I was a member of the Anglo-Turkish Mandate Commission. At that time the Protectorate consisted of only nine tribes. Since then it has been considerably extended. Hadhramaut was a *terra incognita* in those days and was certainly not part of the Protectorate.

I think the Sultan of Lahej owes his preponderance chiefly to the fact that all roads from the interior lead through his capital, of which he has taken advantage at different times.

You mentioned the incursion of the Turks in 1915. That was by no means their first incursion into the Protectorate. When they reconquered the Yemen in about 1870 they gradually pushed their rule south until they penetrated many miles into the British Protectorate. When the British Commission went up there in 1901, intending to open friendly relations with the Turks about the demarcation of the frontier, they found the Turks had brought down a considerable force, had taken military possession of that part of the Protectorate, only just leaving the town of Dhala itself outside the militarily occupied area, and had seized the heads of the passes that led down to Aden; so the position of the Commission was a most difficult one. The Turks simply put their foot down and said, "J'y suis, j'y reste," and we had no power to turn them out. There was just an insignificant escort of Indian troops with the Commission. It took a very long time indeed to persuade the home Government that they must intervene with force, and it was only when a force stronger than the Turkish force was sent up there in 1902 that the Turks were compelled to withdraw. That means that Dhala was occupied by the Turks for about thirty years. It

721 is a case of the neglect, to which you referred, of the Government
648 towards our so-called protected sheikhs.

000 There are one or two rather curious facts in connection with that Commission. The head of the Commission was a Colonel Wahab, a very talented officer. His assistant was a Major Abud. Anyone who understands Arabic will understand the strange coincidence of those two names. When I first made contact with the Turks, they asked me in a puzzled way: "Who are these two men, Wahab and Abud?" They thought that, whereas they had sent some of their most important men, we had sent some local Arabs to deal with them.

You mentioned the frequency of the travel of the tribes of the Protectorate to foreign lands. That was a very striking feature even in those days. It was quite a common thing to meet a half-naked Arab leading a string of camels, who would say: "Bon jour, monsieur."

We had great difficulty in getting a cook there. Our Indian cook went sick, and to our surprise a local Arab turned up from a village in the mountains. We found he talked English with a very Australian accent, and had been an assistant cook in a temperance hotel in Queensland.

Captain ACWORTH: Sir Bernard spoke of the very great religious enthusiasm of the tribes, but he also mentioned a sort of friction between the various tribes, and some of them did not think very highly of the others. I was wondering whether in the very keen Moslem faith in the south of Arabia they have among them the same sort of divergencies and different views that we have in our churches here, like High Church, Modernist, and so on—whether there are really a considerable number of sects among the Moslems.

Then, are the various tribes something like the counties in England—say, Lancashire and Cornwall? Can they all understand each other? Those two points I have always wondered about.

795 Sir BERNARD REILLY: The division I spoke of was between the Shafeis and the Zeidis. The Shafeis belong to the great Sunni Division of the Moslem faith. The Zeidis are more akin to the Shiahs, though they are not precisely Shiahs. They take their name from the founder of their sect, named Zeid, but they have more in common with the Shiahs than the Shafeis have.

I do not think it would be right to say there are many subdivisions in the Aden Protectorate. The people of the Protectorate are all Shafeis, and there are no serious divisions among them from a religious point of view at all.

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As regards dialects, Captain Acworth asked whether the tribesmen of one tribe understand the tribesmen of another. Undoubtedly yes. There is no great divergence of language. There are slight differences of pronunciation and accent. I have heard the men of one tribe mimicking the speech of those of another tribe, but fundamentally their language is the same. I should imagine that the differences in matters of speech are rather less than those between different parts of England.

Of course, there is a great difference between the Arabic spoken in the south of Arabia and Arabic spoken in Palestine or Egypt, but there are no great distinctions inside the country itself.

Dr. HUGH SCOTT acknowledged his indebtedness to Sir Bernard Reilly and the officers of the Aden Protectorate during the British Museum Expedition to South-West Arabia in 1937. Dr. Scott added some interesting remarks on the peoples of the country, which are amplified in his article (see p. 146).

The CHAIRMAN: When Sir John Shea wrote and asked whether I would take the chair at this meeting, I said I should be very pleased to do that because I knew that Sir Bernard Reilly would give us an interesting talk. I think you will bear me out that I was right in that prophecy.

Naturally, I have been listening to his talk from the Colonial Office angle. The Colonial Office was associated with Aden even before the colony was established in April, 1937, because by a division of work the Government of India had continued to deal with the settlement of Aden, but the Colonial Office had been made responsible, as part of H.M. Government here, for the Aden Protectorate. For instance, when Sir Bernard went to Sana to negotiate that treaty, in which he was so successful, the Colonial Office was in charge at this end.

When the colony was formed, as I dare say you know, there was quite a lot of fear in Aden on the part of the Indian community. They thought that Customs would be imposed to raise revenue to spend on the Protectorate. Well, Aden is still a free port. They were afraid their Indian law was going to be put aside by a Colonial Office which had no interest in Indian law. The Indian code still remains. They were afraid their Indian currency would go. The rupee is still there. They were afraid we should waste money. But a Budget deficit has become a Budget surplus. They were afraid that they would lose their salt trade. There the Colonial Office is not actually in control. It depends upon the Government of India whether or not Aden's salt

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DOO continues to receive the same favourable treatment as before. But at least the Colonial Office and Sir Bernard have done their level best to ensure that that favourable treatment continues. So those fears have gone.

When we set up the colony we had no intention of introducing drastic reforms, but in the Protectorate we did introduce a new policy quite deliberately. Sir Bernard has talked of that Protectorate as having been a vacuum. Nature abhors a vacuum, we are told. I do not know if the many critics of the Colonial Office would ever expect to find the Colonial Office doing anything which they would regard as natural. But at any rate we did follow Nature in abhorring this vacuum, and we set about quite deliberately, with Sir Bernard's help, to get a change, but our first rule was that there must be no hustle. It is not the slightest good, in dealing with Eastern peoples, to try to hurry, and if at any time we were wanting to go too fast, Sir Bernard was far too prudent to let us. I have sometimes thought the right motto for the Aden Protectorate comes from the prophet Isaiah: "Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little."

The first thing was obviously security. Sir Bernard has spoken of the tremendous work of the R.A.F. in the background. The whole principle was to try to introduce a reasonable amount of peace and order in a very disturbed country and keep the trade routes open, but not to administer anything. We have no intention of administering the Protectorate. What we want to do is to build there on Arab institutions and to keep it an Arab country. That will be done through the work of advisers like Mr. Ingrams, who has made for himself a great name in the Hadhramaut, and political officers, whose numbers have grown from two to ten in Sir Bernard's time. With their help we must seek to improve the standard of life and conditions in the Protectorate.

Of course, there are certain things you must try to remove, such as an obvious abuse like slave-trading, not that it exists now; but in general you must carry on and develop existing institutions. We are giving help in the Protectorate with agriculture and with dispensaries, and we are beginning on education.

There have been setbacks at times—in security, for example—and there will be setbacks. It is a very primitive country, but the [illegible] thing is perseverance. As a matter of fact, we are already getting [illegible] reward through the work of these political officers, which is probably

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some of the most selfless work in the world. Let me mention a recent incident. When Buckingham Palace was bombed, a man in Aden named Ali Ahmed Ruban came to the Governor and brought £7 10s., half a month's salary. He was an engineer foreman. He said: "This money is to help with cement for repairing the King's house now that the Nazis have bombed it." It is a touching story, and it illustrates the general feeling in Aden Colony and Protectorate.

Just one thing I would like to make quite clear about the Protectorate. Great Britain is there to give, not to take. There is no question of revenue coming from the Protectorate. The British Government puts up the money for anything that the Government spends in the Protectorate.

For my part, I am proud of the share which the Colonial Office has had in this new policy for the Protectorate, and I would like to take this opportunity of saying, in Sir Bernard Reilly's presence, how very fortunate we feel we have been to have had in him so wise and so understanding an administrator to initiate it. (Applause.)